(c) Trade and industry have on the whole welcomed the liberalised trade policy.

(d) No, Sir.

Proposal to export non-Basmati rice

2358. DR. RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI': Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to export non-basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) With effect from 15.1.93, export superfine non-basmati rice, that is to say non-basmati rice whose export price is not less than US $ 275 per MT (f.o.b.), is allowed freely without a licence. Non-basmati rice whose export price is less than US $ 275 per MT is not permitted to be exported.

(c) During the period from April, 1992 to January, 1993, 2,38,512.4 MTs of Non-basmati rice (including superfine non-basmati rice) valued at Rs. 164.20 crores have been exported.

Proposal to prune the negative list of exports

2359. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to prune the negative list of exports; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and details of the negative list of exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

The details of Negative list of Exports are given in Chapter XVI of the Exim Policy, 1992-97.

(b) Consideration of changes in the Negative List of Exports is an ongoing process keeping in view the needs of Industry and Public Interest.

Signing of new agreement with European Community

2360. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to sign a new cooperation agreement with the European Community for the development of business cooperation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal retains the positive elements of the existing Indo-EEC Agreement. Besides, it broadens the scope of cooperation further to cover a wide range of subjects.

Imposition of duty on imports by U.S.A.

2361. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA have imposed duties on the import

of various items from India with a view to offset dumping and curbing imports from India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the manner in which it is likely to affect adversely the import from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Anti-dumping duties have been imposed by the US on its imports of steel pipes and tubes, sulfanilic acid and sulphur dyes from India.

(c) The competitiveness of the affected products imported from India vis-a-vis like products of the domestic industry would be affected adversely.

Impact of Dunkel proposals on bulk drug exports

2362. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the extent to which the bulk drug exports, currently valued at Rs. 350 crores are likely to be severely affected if Government signs Trade Related Intellectual Property Right envisaged in the Dunkel proposals?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): No, Sir. The major export markets for Indian bulk drugs are the EEC countries, Switzerland, Australia, Hongkong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, U.S.A., and Canada. These countries already have a system of product patent protection for drugs.

If India signs the TRIPs agreement, it is anticipated that the impact in respect of exports will be limited to new drugs and to countries which are not providing patent protection for drugs. The number of such countries is dwindling.

Strategy to achieve export target

2363. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been preparing a medium-term strategy for exports to achieve the targets of foreign trade; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The new Export-Import Policy for 1992—97 is aimed at enhancing export capability and augmenting exports through promotion of productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry. The provisions contained in the Central Budget for 1993-94 such as introduction of unified exchange rate, reduction in import and excise duties and reduction in interest rate on rupee export credit are also aimed at boosting exports. Besides, 34 Extreme Focus Products have been identified by the Government for achieving a 30 per cent growth per annum in value for volume over the medium term.